TRENDS

7/19/88

A3275-2

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, July 14, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended July 9, which included the Independence Day holiday, totaled 16.3 billion ton-miles, down 2.2 percent from the 16.7 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987. Both weeks included the annual coal miners' holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 27 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 512.3 billion ton-miles carried, up 8.1 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended July 9 totaled 348,931, down 3.6 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 16.7 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were down 9.1 percent in the East, but up 1.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 16 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of coal were down 3,515 cars (4.1 percent); primary forest products were down 3,205 cars (30.5 percent); and grain was down 2,389 cars (7.4 percent). Eighteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended July 2 totaled 116,858 trailers and/or containers, up 17.4 percent from the comparable week of 1987, which included the Independence Day holiday.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 26 weeks of the year was 2,824,700 trailers and/or containers, up 5.7 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 7/9/88:

	Loadings in Week ended July 9, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,690	D	2,389	7.4	D	1,849	5.9
Other farm products	3,260	D	446	12.0	D	480	12.9
Metallic ores	22,360	I	7,065	46.2	I	642	3.0
Coal	82,268	D	3,515	4.1	D	19,193	18.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,895	D	204	1.3	D	2,181	12.1
Nonmetallic minerals	9,738	I	302	3.2	D	875	8.2
Grain mill products	9,057	D	1,383	13.2	D	1,765	16.3
Food and kindred products	8,858	D	1,189	11.8	D	2,618	22.8
Primary forest products	7,316	D	3,205	30.5	D	2,317	24.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,467	D	1,950	26.3	D	2,623	32.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,486	D	1,157	9.2	D	1,206	9.5
Chemicals and allied products	24,568	D	599	2.4	D	2,893	10.5
Petroleum products	4,754	D	467	8.9	D	802	14.4
Stone, clay and glass products	10,039	D	749	6.9	D	1,781	15.1
Coke	5,761	I	506	9.6	I	352	6.5
Metals and products	8,422	D	137	1.6	D	2,371	22.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,715	I	1,155	10.0	D	7,491	37.1
Waste and scrap materials	7,184	D	784	9.8	D	1,862	20.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,001	D	749	27.2	D	633	24.0
All other carloads	68,092	D	3,248	4.6	D	18,014	20.9
Total Cars Loaded	348,931	D	13,143	3.6	D	69,960	16.7
Corresponding week of 1987	362,074						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (27 weeks)	11,318,504	10,677,286	I 6.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
26 weeks ended July 2	496.0	457.0	I 8.5
Week ended July 9	16.3	16.7	D 2.2
27 Weeks cumulative	512.3	473.7	I 8.1

#

BEST COPY AVAILABLE